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recherche

HOFFMANN - EITLE

Patent- und Rechtsanwälte

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ALLEMAGNE

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PATENTANWÄLTE RECHTSANWÄLTE

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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

02



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 752 668 A (SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC) 8 January 1997 (1997-01-08) * column 2, line 47 - line 51 * * page 4, right-hand column * * column 8, line 10 - column 9, line 38 * * figures 3A,5A-5C,6A * ----	1,2,4-7	G06F13/40
D,X	EP 0 704 820 A (YAMAICHI ELECTRONICS CO LTD ; TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO (JP)) 3 April 1996 (1996-04-03) * column 4, line 6 - line 13 * * column 4, line 36 - line 40; figure 11 * ----	1,2,4,5	
X	US 3 432 795 A (JAYNE MAX L) 11 March 1969 (1969-03-11) * abstract; figures 1,2,5 * ----	1,2,4-7	
X	US 4 849 944 A (MATSUSHITA TSUYOSHI) 18 July 1989 (1989-07-18) * column 4, line 14 - line 40 * ----	1,2,6,7	
A	US 4 889 495 A (KIMURA MASATOSHI) 26 December 1989 (1989-12-26) * abstract * ----	1-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G06F -/--
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
1	Place of search MUNICH	Date of completion of the search 4 December 2003	Examiner Sentier, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 5 584 030 A (HUSAK DAVID J ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10) * column 3, line 60 - column 4, line 8 * * column 4, line 27 - line 30 * * figure 1C *	1-9	
A	US 5 636 347 A (AJANOVIC JASMIN ET AL) 3 June 1997 (1997-06-03) * abstract *	1-9	
D, X, P	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 06, 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) -& JP 10 049644 A (YAMAICHI ELECTRON CO LTD; TOSHIBA CORP), 20 February 1998 (1998-02-20) * abstract; figures 5,6 *	1,2,4-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-9

A method for controlling the connections staggering of a memory card signals when said memory card is inserted into, or ejected from, an electronic apparatus.

2. Claims: 10-12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

A method for controlling a memory system which includes logical blocks and physical blocks; wherein a logical/physical address translation table is used.

3. Claims: 13-14

A method for controlling a memory system wherein storage units, for managed file, are arranged on boundaries between predetermined units of a storage area.

4. Claims: 15-16

A method for controlling a memory system including files to be managed, data areas for storing the contents of said files, and a management area for storing the relationships between said files and said data areas.

5. Claim : 22

A method for controlling a non-volatile semiconductor memory system, which allows any one of various memory units to be detachably mounted in a body of said memory system, said method comprising a step of selecting a corresponding one of various error correcting means of said body in accordance with said one of various memory units mounted in said body, to carry out error correction.

The common feature linking together the above groups of invention and defined by the independent claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23, is the following:

A method for controlling a memory system.

This common feature, however, does not meet the requirements laid down in Rule 30 EPC. Consequently the application lacks of unity in the sense of Article 82 EPC.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 11 4979

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-12-2003

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